

Remarks/Arguments

This paper is in response to the Office Action of March 30, 2006 and the Examiner is thanked for the careful review of this Application. The due date for response is May 30, 2006, within a 2 month reply window.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 and dependent claim 20 have been amended. Amendments were made to the claims to further clarify the inventions. The amendments do not introduce new matter. All claims not canceled are pending after entry of the present Amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. section 103:

Claims 1, 4-8, 11-12, 14-15, and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over East et al. (East), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0061323 and further in view of Prager et al. (Prager), U. S. Patent No. 5,838,918. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 were amended to provide more clarity to the claim language. East discloses a hierarchical system and method for centralized management of thin clients. The system provides one or more administrative servers configured as a master administrative server. A master administrative server issues commands to one or more administrative servers called remote administrative servers. Thin clients are configured such that updates to configurations to the thin client are made either through a master administrative server or are controlled by a remote administrative server. Configuration updates are then initiated through a master administrative server.

Prager discloses a method of computer configuration management. The method employs template objects and a subscription scheme to a configuration database to establish coherent configuration policies. Prager teaches a management-by-subscription technique which allows

distributed system's administrators to divide management tasks between different individual administrators. The cited prior art references individually or in combination do not disclose or suggest each and every feature of the now amended independent claims, as will be shown.

Independent claim 1 of the claimed invention defines a method for administration of a thin client architecture. The method provides a plurality of administrators. The method includes dividing the administrative tasks into a plurality of task groups where each task group comprises common needs of a separate and discrete subset of users in a system. (*See page 10, lines 9-18*). The dividing is achieved such that a first number of the task groups is equal to a second number of administrators. Finally, the method executes the administrative tasks.

East and Prager individually or combined do not disclose a method of administration of a thin client architecture in which administrative tasks are divided into a plurality of task groups where each task group comprises the common needs of a separate and discrete subset of users. East does not teach a method wherein the distributing includes dividing administrative tasks into a plurality of task groups. The teachings of Prager deals with distributing and managing configurations within a client server computing system using configuration templates. Prager accomplishes this by distributing the configuration management to individual administrators and managing the individual administrators to provide configuration consistency. This is not the same as managing tasks of the claimed invention. A task group represents the common needs of a discrete subset of users in a system and is a common grouping of individual tasks into a discrete category. An example of a task group might be when a subset of users in a system need to have their passwords reset. Prager does not teach grouping tasks as part of dividing the management tasks between different individual administrators. Prager disregards administrative tasks that may be grouped according to the common needs of a discrete subset of users. Consequently, each administrator in Prager is "fair game" for being assigned an individual task regardless of whether the task could be categorized into a group and distributed accordingly. Applicants claimed invention divides tasks

into task groups as part of the distributing operation wherein each task group comprises the common needs of a discrete subset of users. Additionally, a first number of the task groups is equal to a second number of administrators that are assigned the task group for execution.

Independent claim 8 defines an administrative system for a thin client architecture. The system comprises a plurality of administrators who are teachers of students. (*See page 10, lines 21-24, page 11, lines 1-3*). The students are users of a system. The system further includes a distribution mechanism configured to distribute a plurality of administrative tasks among the administrators. The distribution mechanism divides the administrative tasks into a plurality of task groups where each task group comprises the common needs of a separate and discrete subset of users in a system and where a first number of task groups is equal to a second number of administrators. Finally, a task execution device is included which is configured to enable the administrators to execute the assigned administrative tasks.

East and Prager combined do not disclose an administration system for a thin client architecture which provides a plurality of administrators who are teachers of students with the students being users of a system. East and Prager teach administrators as managers of computer systems which is not the same as Applicants claimed invention. Applicants claimed invention is directed to administrators who are teachers of students which is different from a manager because managing a computer system is not the same as being a teacher of a student who is a user of a system.

A further distinction between the prior art combination and Applicants claimed invention is that the prior art references in combination do not teach dividing administrative tasks into a plurality of task groups where each task group comprises the common needs of a separate and discrete subset of users in a system. A task group is a common grouping of individual tasks into a discrete category. East and Prager do not teach grouping tasks as part of dividing the management

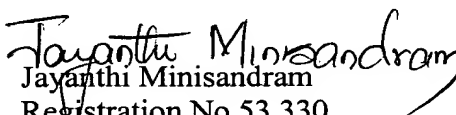
tasks between different individual administrators. Applicants claimed invention divides tasks into task groups as part of the distributing operation wherein a first number of the task groups is equal to a second number of administrators that are assigned the task group for execution.

Independent claim 15 likewise, for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1, is submitted to be allowable. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that the East and Prager references in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claimed inventions. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the section 103(a) rejections with respect to independent claims 1, 8, and 15 be withdrawn. Dependent claim 20 has been amended to clarify the role of the administrator. The dependent claims are, therefore, submitted to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for the independent claims.

A copy of the Power of attorney that was officially filed at the Office is enclosed. Kindly forward any new correspondence to the new address.

With these clarifications, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 774-6905. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this Amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. SUNMP582). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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